Tackling Population Growth

2215. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) India's population growth rate at present;

(b) how it compares with other countries;

(c) whether targets set in this behalf have been met in the past; if so, to what extent;

(d) the future targets in this behalf; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to tackle the population problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The natural growth rate of population in terms of Birth Rate and Death Rate of India in 1998 is 1.75% as per Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates of office of Registrar General, India.

(b) As per the estimates of UN for 1996 (latest), the annual growth rate of world population for 1995—2000 is 1.37% and the same for 'more developed regions', 'less developed regions' and 'least developed countries, for the same period is 0.26%, 1.65% and 2.63% respectively.

(c) and (d) Though targets in terms of growth rate of population have not specifically set, reduction in population growth has been recognised as one of the priority objectives during the five year plans.

(e) Following steps have been taken to tackle the population problem?

(i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issue was launched in October, 1997.

(ii) Information, Education and Communication Programme is an ongoing programme to increase awareness about the benefits of small family.

(iii) Assistance to States/UTs continues, towards maintenance of family welfare infrastructure.

(iv) Assistance of Voluntary Organizations and NGOs for creating awareness about schemes under family welfare programme.

In order to speed up the efforts of populations stabilization in the country, Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 in February, 2000, which provides a holistic approach to the programme. It enumerates various Strategies and Action Plan to achieve immediate, medium and long-term objectives. The Policy lists national socio-demographic goals for 2010 leading to population stabilization by 2045.

GTZ assisted health project in H.P.

2216. SHRIMATI CHANDERSH KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals regarding GTZ (German Agency) assisted basic health systems projects in five districts of Himachal Pradesh are lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with dates of pendency;

(c) whether Government have held negotiations with the German Agency so far;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to convey their approval early; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (e) A fair Note of Exchange/Agreement between the Government of India and Government of Germany (GTZ) was signed on 29.6.2000 for implementing a basic health project in 5 Districts of Himachal Pradesh with an outlay of DM 6 million. The project aims to improve access to basic medical and health services in these selected districts by strengthening the delivery of services at the primary and secondary level.

Expenditure on publicity material for Family Welfare

2217. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ministry of Health pays about rupees ten crores to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for salaries towards family welfare related publicity material;